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WATERPROOFING BOOTS AND SHOES

Waterproofing boots and shoes for farm and school use protects both the wearer's health and the shoes. While waterproofed shoes should not be expected to keep the feet perfectly dry if worn too long in very wet weather, they will help during rain or snow storms and on wet pavements or wet ground. They should not be expected to take the place of overshoes or boots. They keep in perspiration to a large extent, but not so much as rubber footwear does.

One of the several simple formulas will do for waterproofing shoes. They are all applied in the same way. The grease may be softer for waterproofing shoes in winter than that used in summer time and more of it may be used, in fact, more than the leather will actually absorb, if maximum water resistance is desired. An excess does no harm in winter.

Formula 1: Natural wool grease, 8 ounces; dark petrolatum, 4 ounces; paraffin wax, 4 ounces.

Formula 2: Petrolatum, 1 pound; beeswax, 2 ounces.

Formula 3: Petrolatum, 8 ounces; paraffin wax, 4 ounces; wool grease, 4 ounces; crude turpentine gum (gum thus), 2 ounces.

Formula 4: Tallow, 12 ounces; cod oil, 4 ounces.

Melt together the ingredients by warming them carefully and stirring thoroughly. Apply the grease with a swab of wool or flannel when

it is warm, but never hotter than the hand can bear. Rub it well into the leather with the palm of the hand, especially where the sole is fastened to the upper. The most convenient way to saturate the sole and welt is to let the shoes stand for about 15 minutes in a shallow pan such as a bread tin containing enough of the melted waterproofing material to cover the entire sole. Rubber heels should not be put in the grease. If the shoes have rubber heels, use a piepan to hold the melted material and set the shoes astraddle the rim of the pan with the heels outside.

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